

Peter Morgan
Raymond, Maine
LD 2101

At a community panel discussion focused on Sebago Lake water quality on September 14th, 2023 in Raymond. Nathan Whalen, Water Resources Specialist, Portland Water District (PWD) was a participant. He related that Sebago Lake is the drinking water for the City of Portland and has the unique distinction of a legal exemption from the filtration requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Portland Water District water quality is rated "excellent."

According to their website; the Portland Water District supplies water to 16% of Maine's population. (220,000 residents plus tourists.)

PWD began treating water in February 1994 using ozone. Treatment includes screening, ozonation, UV light treatment, chloramination, and corrosion control. Also as a result of a citizen referendum, fluoride is added to the water at the plant to promote dental health.

While many of my neighbors pump water directly from the lake, I was astonished to learn that Portland residents are provided drinking water to their faucets, directly from Sebago Lake, without any filtration process.

"The federal Safe Drinking Water Act was amended in 1986 in response to concerns about drinking water quality throughout the country. The Act required that drinking water from all surface water supplies be filtered. The District applied for and obtained a waiver from this filtration requirement because of the exceptional water quality of Sebago Lake and the District's comprehensive watershed protection program. This saved customers about \$20 - \$50 million in capital costs required to construct a filtration plant."

<https://www.pwd.org/water-treatment>

The protection of the Sebago Lake resource should be imperative for the wellbeing of Maine residents.